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I N T E R I M R E P O R T

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M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

FOR THE YEAR 1943.

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BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you, my Report of the Health of the Borough and Port of Boston, during the year 1943.

During the year, all essential services have been maintained at their previous high level.

The Health Centre at London Road will soon be in full swing, and it will be of great advantage to have all the services under one roof. A Cleansing Station will also be a great boon. It is always important to have cases treated properly, unless treatment can be carried out under supervision.

The Birth Rate continues to be high, and the Infantile Mortality Rate is very satisfactory, showing a considerable drop since last year from 63 to 45.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

g. r. b.
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6, Bridge Street,
BOSTON.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area (In acres)	3,257
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (March 31st 1943)	6,830
Rateable Value (March 31st 1943) £130,334	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£516

VITAL STATISTICS 1943.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births, Legitimate ...	369	182	187
Illegitimate ...	24	14	10
Still Births, Legitimate ...	9	3	6
Illegitimate ...	1	-	1
Deaths.	264	135	129
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			18.51
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births			24.81
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			12.44

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

(a) All infants per 1,000 Live Births	45.80
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	46.12
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	41.67
Deaths from Measles (All ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years of age) ...	2
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)	37

SECTION B.

LABORATORY AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The war time facilities for laboratory and ambulance services are still in force, and have functioned satisfactorily.

The following Laboratories are still available to carry out the examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens from the district, if required :-

- (1) The Public Health Laboratory, Technical College, LINCOLN.
- (2) The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital, Groby Road, LEICESTER.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The arrangements operated by the Boston and District Nursing Association remained unchanged during the year.

It is still to be desired that some system of Home Helps should be established, as it is found increasingly difficult for expectant mothers, in their confinement, to find means for the maintenance of the home.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Arrangements in connection with the Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Venereal Diseases Clinic remain unchanged.

The Infant Welfare Centre, and the Ophthalmic Clinic, are to be held at the Health Centre, 4, London Road.

PATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwifery Services.

The Holland County Council is the Supervising Authority for the Borough under the Midwives Act, 1936.

Maternity Services.

The arrangements made with the Boston General Hospital with regard to the above, has worked satisfactorily during the year. A total of 82 mothers were admitted to the Maternity Unit through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

The work of the Infant Welfare Centre has been carried out satisfactorily under existing conditions. The supply of Dried Foods has been maintained in spite of War-time conditions. The number of attendances at the Centre for the year was 8,474.

Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic and Tonsils and Adenoids Cases.

Tonsils and Adenoids.

20 children under five years of age received operative treatment in the Boston General Hospital, for Tonsils and Adenoids.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

36 attendances were made by children at Mr. Pilcher's Out-patient Department at the Holland Sanatorium for Orthopaedic Treatment.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

14 attendances were made by children at the Ophthalmic Clinic during the year.

Dental Treatment.

21 children were referred from the Welfare Centre during the year to receive Dental Treatment.

Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.

67 Expectant Mothers were referred for Dental Treatment, 12 receiving the necessary treatment through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery has continued to function successfully during the year, the total number of attendances being 7,748.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. T.H.Tyson, Waterworks Engineer, for the following report on the Borough Water Supply :-

The rainfall for the year was again below the average, and the rainfalls for the past six years are as follows :-

1938	24.36 ins.
1939	31.18 "
1940	27.17 "
1941	25.78 "
1942	21.62 "
1943	21.73 "

The average rainfall for the past 41 years is 25.58 ins.

The Miningsby Beck ceased to flow on June 25th and commenced to flow again on November 15th after being dry for 142 days, a record.

The supply from Fordington was maintained during the year.

The upper strata above the boreholes collapsed. Grouting under pressure was carried out, and as far as can be ascertained the movement has been arrested.

The demands are still increasing again largely due to War Service requirements.

Water samples for analysis have been taken regularly throughout the year, and all the reports have been satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The sanitary circumstances of the Borough underwent practically no change during the year. The usual routine inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Staff, and the position at the end of the year was entirely satisfactory.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

There was little or no systematic house to house inspections during 1943, owing to the lack of staff generally.

Endeavours were continued, however, to keep dwelling houses in a reasonable state of repair if not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

SECTION E.

MILK SUPPLY.

Samples have been taken regularly of milk supplied within the Borough.

Inspections have also been made of farms and dairies situated within the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Under the control of the Livestock Scheme, one slaughterhouse has been in use in the Borough covering the Borough and Rural District.

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Pork</u>
Carcases Examined.....	2188	5033	1779
Carcases Condemned.....	45	12	52
Total weight condemned....	32 Tons. 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 19 lbs		

In addition to the slaughterhouse, inspections have been made to premises used for the preparation of food.

ADULTERATION &c.

With the coming into operation of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 on the 1st October 1939, the duties as regards sampling were transferred to the Holland County Council.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :-

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	43
Whooping Cough ..	...	...	99
Diphtheria .....	...	...	5 (1 not confirm)
Measles ...	...	...	269
Pneumonia ...	...	...	24
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...			1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	...		7
Chicken Pox ...	...	...	47
Malaria ...	...	...	1
Mumps ...	...	...	4
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	1

LABORATORY FACILITIES, PROVISION OF SERA.

Medical Practitioners are given every opportunity for the examination of clinical material, and fees are paid by the Authority where necessary.

The work is carried out at the Laboratory of the Holland County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following brief report on the work carried out in connection with the Port Health Administration during the year ended 31st December 1943 :-

SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

Of the total number of foreign and coastwise ships entering the Port during the year, the following are particulars regarding inspections carried out, defects remedied etc :-

Number inspected :-

(a) By Medical Officer of Health...	Nil
(b) By Sanitary Inspector	12

Number reported to be defective	Nil
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Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Nil
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Number of vessels reported as having or as having had during the voyage, infectious disease	Nil
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PART SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Infectious Disease Notified.

Cases of Infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year	Nil
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Cases of Infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival	Nil
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MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS :-

Rats destroyed during 1943.

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|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) On vessels ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Issue of Deratination and Deratination Exemption Certificates

No certificates have been issued during the year, as Boston is not an approved Port. Certificates when required have been obtained from Grimsby.

FOOD INSPECTION.

No action was found to be necessary during the year under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.